

Border Issues and Homeland Security Committee Report

Chair/Presenter: François Dion



Committee Members

- 12 persons on the committee
- Representation from
 - Public transportation agencies
 - Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
 - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
 - Academic institutions
 - Michigan State University
 - University of Michigan
 - Michigan Tech University
 - Private border crossing operators
 - Detroit-Windsor Tunnel
 - Ambassador Bridge

RPS Drafting Process

- General meeting to tentatively identify RPS topics and overarching themes
- Specific RPS submitted by individuals
- Acceptability of submitted RPS discussed by the committee



Submission of 1 RPS out of a pool of
10-15 suggested topics

RPS Selection Criteria

- Considered only RPS of interest for Michigan
- Suggestion: Wait for a report by the Transportation Border Working Group
 - Avoid duplicating ongoing research efforts
 - Report addressing border efficiency issues → needs to reduce travel time by 25%
- Numerous RPS rejected because of governance decisions

RPS Drafting Process

- RPS that were too dependent on new, unproven technologies were rejected
 - Too much risk for sponsors
- RPS satisfying both public and private border crossing operators accepted
- Recognition that significant research is currently being sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security

Overarching Themes

- Four main themes identified:
 - Efficient operations of border crossings
 - Homeland security requirement for border crossings
 - Protection of transportation infrastructure
 - Emergency preparedness

Submitted RPS

Project Statement	Research Theme					Duration (Months)	Priority
	Emergency Preparedness	Protection of Infrastructure	Homeland Security	Crossing Efficiency			
Potential Impacts of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative on Border/Traffic Management at Canada/U.S. Land Crossings			✓	✓		12	High